

GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(Part-time)

MARJORY A. DAWSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

for the

YEAR 1949

GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1949

To The Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1949.

As I assumed duty as Medical Officer to the Gipping Rural District Council on the 1st July 1950 the Report is based on data collected by my predecessor, Dr.P.J.H.Clarke, and I wish to acknowledge his help and that of Mr.S.A.Seamans who have ably assisted in the compilation of the Report.

I also wish to thank Mr.R.C.Riches and Mr.E.A.Morgan for those parts of the Report which they have supplied.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

Marjory A Dawson

30 AUG 1950

MARJORY A. DAWSON
Medical Officer of Health.

(A) GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	79,898 acres
Population (Registrar Generals figure)					18,960
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...		5,859
Rateable Value	...	...	...		£76,801
Sum represented by a Penny Rate			...		£286

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Total	165	167	Total	7	6
Legitimate	157	163	Legitimate	7	6
Illegitimate	8	4	Illegitimate	-	-
<u>LIVE BIRTH RATE</u>	Per 1,000 Civilian Population			17.5	
	England and Wales			16.7	

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under one year:

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Total	5	5
Legitimate	5	4
Illegitimate	-	1
Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	30.1	
England and Wales	32.0	

DEATHS

All causes:	Total	240
	M	138
	F	102
<u>DEATH RATE</u>	Per 1,000 Civilian Population	12.6
	England and Wales	11.7

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(B) COMMENTS ON GENERAL STATISTICS

- (1) The estimated population increased by 150.
- (2) The Birth Rate almost exactly corresponded with that for 1948 but was slightly higher than the overall rate for England and Wales.
- (3) The Infantile Mortality Rate showed an appreciable increase compared with 1948 but was still slightly below the overall rate for England and Wales.
- (4) The Death Rate showed an increase compared with 1948 and was slightly higher than the overall rate for England and Wales.
- (5) Cardio vascular diseases (heart and blood vessels) and Cancer continued to be the two greatest causes of deaths.

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(C) COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL TABLE FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS

	1947	1948	1949
Estimated Population	18,470	18,810	18,960
Live Births	386	334	332
Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population	20.9	17.7	17.5
Total Infant Deaths (under 1 year)	15	6	10
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	38.9	18.0	30.1
Total Deaths	222	186	240
Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population	12.0	9.8	12.6

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(D) CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH (REGISTRAR GENERALS FIGURES)

				M	F	Total
1. Diseases of the Cardio Vascular System				73	63	136
(a) Heart Diseases	54M	49F				
(b) Intracranial Vascular Lesions (Stroke, etc)	12M	10F				
(c) Other diseases of circulatory system	7M	4F				
2. Cancer (all sites) ...	...	...		16	10	26
(a) Stomach or Duodenum	3M	0F				
(b) All other sites	13M	10F				
3. Diseases of Respiratory System ...	...	...		14	9	23
(a) Bronchitis	1M	3F				
(b) Pneumonia	4M	5F				
(c) Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Lungs)	8M	0F				
(d) Other respiratory diseases	1M	1F				
4. Influenza ...	...	...		2	3	5
5. Diabetes ...	...	...		1	-	1
6. Diseases of the Digestive System ...				6	1	7
(a) Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	4M	0F				
(b) Other digestive diseases	2M	1F				
7. Acute Polio-encephalitis ...	...	...		1	-	1
8. Premature Birth ...	...	...		-	2	2
9. Syphilitic Disease ...	...	...		1	-	1
10. Congenital Malformation; Birth Injury; Infant Diseases ...	...	...		3	2	5
11. Road Traffic Accidents ...	...	...		2	-	2
12. Suicide ...	...	...		3	-	3
13. Other Violent Causes (unspecified)		3	1	4
14. All other causes		13	11	24
<u>TOTALS</u>				<u>138</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>240</u>

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(E) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) - COMPILED FROM NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED

Disease	Age							Unknown	Total	Admitted Hospital	Deaths
	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25+				
Measles	1	2	6	8	1	-	-	-	18	-	-
Whooping Cough	6	21	16	18	1	1	2	-	65	1	-
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	8	-	1	1	-	12	2	-
Acute Pneumonia	1	2	1	1	2	1	3	1	12	-	-
Erysipelas	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	4	4	-
Acute Polio- encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1
TOTALS									116	9	1

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(F) TUBERCULOSIS

(1) New cases notified:

Pulmonary (Lungs)	7 Males	4 Females
Non-Pulmonary (glands, bones and joints, etc)	3 Males	7 Females

(2) Ages of new cases:

Pulmonary: Males 53; 60; 31; 31; 69; 47; 28.
Females 19; 17; 22; 64.

Non-Pulmonary: Males 12; 52; 34.
Females 2; 15; 18; 14; 25; 8; 12.

(3) Cases "crossed off the register as recovered" during year:

Pulmonary:	Males -	Females -
Non-Pulmonary:	Males 1	Females 2

(4) Died during the year:

Pulmonary:	8	Males	-	Females
Non-Pulmonary:	-	Males	-	Females

(5) Cases on the Register at the end of the year:

Pulmonary:	29	Males	21	Females	Total	50
Non-Pulmonary:	21	Males	23	Females	Total	44

(G) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION (figures kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health).

(1) Percentage of pre-School children immunized = 67.57

(2) Percentage of all children immunized = 77.3

(3) Booster treatment during 1949 = 287

The efficacy of immunization against Diphtheria is reflected in the fact that, for the second year in succession, not a single case of the disease was notified.

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(H) SECTION 47 OF NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

There was no case represented under this Section during the year.

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(I) WATER SUPPLIES

I am indebted to Mr.E.A.Morgan, Chief Sanitary Inspector for the following report:-

(1) The quality and quantity of public supplies has, generally, been satisfactory throughout the area. The quality of private supplies has not been so satisfactory, and although no carting of water was carried out by the Local Authority, many of the private sources, being shallow wells, became dry during the summer and early autumn.

(2) Of 25 bacteriological samples taken from public mains supplies, two were unsatisfactory. As the result of action taken by the Surveyor these two sources provided satisfactory "check samples". The only chemical sample of water from public mains supplies was satisfactory.

(3) None of the water supplies of the area has a plumbo-solvent action.

(4) The number of dwelling houses supplied from public mains supplies are as follows:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Laid on to properties</u>	<u>Taken from Stand-pipes</u>
Ashbocking	13	36
Ashfield-cum-Thorpe	46	4
Barham	11	20
Bramford	581	-
Buxhall	4	6
Creeting St Mary	29	38
Crowfield	28	48
Debenham	146	79
Framsden	19	3
Gosbeck	25	17
Great Bricett	6	20
Great Finborough	6	17
Haughley	132	53
Hemingstone	2	3
Henley	12	13
Mickfield	19	25
Pettaugh	8	34
Ringshall	8	-
Stonham Aspal	57	77
Stonham Earl	11	10
Stonham Parva	42	60
Stowupland	275	-
Wetherden	-	14
Winston	30	16
<u>Totals</u>	<u>1,510</u>	<u>593</u>

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(J) REGIONAL WATER SCHEME

I am indebted to Mr.R.C.Riches, Engineer and Surveyor, for the following report:-

During the year a Borehole of 36" diameter has been sunk at Baylham and a continuous pumping test of 14 days duration indicated there was an ample supply of water for the requirements of this District.

As the Ipswich Corporation are also interested in this project, the Council are now awaiting a report from that Authority for submission to the Ministry of Health.

In connection with the Ashfield, Debenham, Framsdon and Winston Scheme, a booster has now been fixed at Debenham, by this means an additional supply can now be boosted to the Crowfield-Stonham area.

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(K) HAUGHLEY GREEN

It has not been possible for the contractor to carry out the extension authorized by the Council owing to the difficulty in obtaining delivery of pipes, but the booster house has been erected in readiness.

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(L) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor for the following report:-

A step forward has been made during the year, as the Ministry of Health has given approval in principal to Schemes for the Parishes of Bramford, Claydon, Debenham and Great Blakenham.

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(M) HOUSING

I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor for the following report:-

During the year under review, the erection of new houses did not proceed so rapidly as one would have liked, 70 houses having been completed, with 52 in course of erection. In addition 14 houses under licence and 4 dwellings of a temporary nature were erected by private enterprise.

This brought the total of new buildings completed since the war by the Gipping Rural District Council to 170 at end of year.

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(N) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Details are given in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

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(O) FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

No case of Food poisoning was reported during the year.

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(F) MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE FORM 572

A copy has been forwarded to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service, as requested, and further copies will be attached to the copies of this Annual Report forwarded to the Ministry of Labour and National Service and the County Council.

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GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

E.A. MORGAN, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

for the

YEAR 1949

GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1949

To The Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

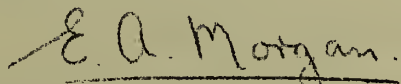
I have the honour to submit for your perusal and consideration a report on the activities of your Sanitary Department during 1949, this being my sixth Annual Report as your Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The division of the area into two districts, each under the control of an Additional Sanitary Inspector, continues and has assisted considerably in making for an efficient administration.

Although the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, which came into operation on October 1st, 1949, removed the supervision of milk production at dairy farms from the sphere of operations of local authorities, other legislation, notably the Housing Act, 1949, and the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, (which operates from 31st March, 1950), will add to our responsibilities.

The continued interest of the Chairman of Council and other Members of Council, as well as the co-operation of colleagues in other Departments, is sincerely appreciated, and the close liaison existing with the Medical Officer of Health (Dr.P.J.H.Clarke) in respect of those duties which are reciprocal is particularly valuable.

I am, Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,


Chief Sanitary Inspector.

5th September, 1950.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

(i) Housing visits and re-visits:-

Sanitation and Housing Act Surveys	...	3,284
Building Licences (Defence Regulation 56A)	...	469
		<u>3,753</u>

(ii) The following list excludes those enumerated above:-

Applications for Council houses	...	...	142
Water Supplies	...	...	596
Drains and Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	291
Cesspools and Sewage Works	...	...	298
Structural Defects	...	...	502
Overcrowding	...	...	37
Tents, Vans, etc	...	...	78
Pig and Poultry keeping	...	...	22
Filthy and Verminous Premises	...	...	86
Rodent Destruction:-			
County Council Campaign	...	...	17
Ministry of Agriculture Campaign	...	...	74
Slaughterhouses	...	...	18
Meat and Other Foods	...	...	129
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	186
Infectious Diseases	...	...	73
Factories and Workplaces	...	...	47
Refuse and Nightsoil Removal	...	...	452
Rivers Pollution	...	...	54
Ditches and Watercourses	...	...	176
Salvage	...	...	97

3,375

ADD visits recorded under (i) 3,753

Sum Total for 1949 7,128

In addition 39 meetings of Council and various Committees were also attended.

HOUSING ACTS 1936 and 1949

The chief features of the Housing Act 1949 so far as my own Department is concerned are the reintroduction of improvement grants for reconditioned property, and the authority given for the quashing, by a County Court Judge, of Demolition Orders

operative prior to January 1st 1946, where a local authority is satisfied that the property is now fit in all respects for human habitation.

The standard of amenities required for improvement grants is higher than was the case under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, and the grant provisions have been extended to cover almost all urban and rural dwellinghouses with the exception of "tied" houses and property owned by Councils. The work of improvement (excluding repairs) must not cost less than £100 nor more than £600, but the upper limit may be increased at the discretion of the Minister of Health provided the house has architectural merit or historic interest.

No application for grant nor the quashing of a Demolition Order was received up to the end of the year.

Action was taken under the Housing Act 1936, for the first time since before the war, and 8 Demolition Orders were made. No appeal to the County Court was made so far as 7 of these Orders were concerned and they accordingly became operative. An appeal was, however, lodged in respect of a Demolition Order made towards the end of the year, although the owner had not submitted any specific offer with regard to the carrying out of works to render the property fit for human habitation, either prior to or when the question of the Demolition Order was discussed by the Council and had, thereby, failed to comply with the provisions of the Act.

SANITATION SURVEYS

There is a considerable increase in the number of inspections under this heading compared with 1948. This is chiefly due to the amount of preparatory work required in connection with the Sewerage Inquiry conducted by Colonel S.K.Gilbert, B.Sc., M.I.C.E., of the Ministry of Health into the Council's schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal for the Parishes of Bramford, Debenham, Claydon and Great Blakenham. Although certain alterations and amendments were made as a result of this Inquiry, the Minister's approval marks a further stage towards an improved general standard of amenities in the area.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING DEFENCE REGULATION 56A

Control over the issuing of licences for housing repairs and improvements costing more than £100 continues to be vested in the Local Authority.

The time taken up by the inspection and negotiations involved in dealing with Building Licences applications is by no means reflected in the number of licences issued, but joint consultation between owner, builder and/or architect and the Council's staff helps to achieve a mutual recognition of the viewpoint of each. The result is that whilst the "other side" cannot claim to have experienced a sense of undue frustration from the too rigid application of the various rules and regulations, neither have these been so administered as to give an applicant the impression that any item included in a schedule automatically receives support and approval as "essential work".

The total number of Building Licences issued during the year from my own Department was 42 involving a total expenditure of £11,735.

APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES

With the appointment of a Housing Manager in the Surveyor's Department as from May 2nd, the duty of investigating the housing conditions of applicants for Council houses ceased to be undertaken by the Sanitary Department. Nevertheless, the information already acquired remained available and proved of considerable assistance to our new colleague, and information of mutual concern continues to be exchanged to the benefit of both Departments.

WATER SUPPLIES

The work of sinking the new borewell at Baylham, which was carried out under the supervision of the Surveyor, was commenced in September and was the first step towards the achievement of a comprehensive water supply scheme for the Rural District. It is rather unfortunate that this source was not, in itself, adequate for the combined requirements of Gipping and Ipswich, as further delay will naturally be experienced before Ipswich are in a position to provide the necessary pumping plant, storage and treatment facilities for the two borewells now required.

A total of 207 bacteriological and 23 chemical samples were taken from various sources of supply - both public and private. The summarised results are as follows:-

Type of Supply	No. of sources	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
<u>Public - Bacteriological</u>			
Piped	9	23	2
Borewell	27	31	14
Deep well	3	3	4
Shallow well	6	6	8
<u>Private - Bacteriological</u>			
Piped	1	2	-
Borewell	18	21	31
Deep well	8	3	10
Shallow well	45	14	35
<u>Public - Chemical</u>			
Piped	1	1	-
Borewell	14	15	-
Deep well	-	-	-
Shallow well	1	1	-
<u>Private - Chemical</u>			
Piped	1	2	-
Borewell	1	2	-
Deep well	2	2	-
Shallow well	-	-	-

DRAINS AND SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The position regarding the necessity for the submission of plans in connection with the provision of a new drainage system at an existing house is still obscure, the byelaw "experts" contending that the byelaws apply merely to new buildings and the drainage systems installed at the time of their erection. This being contrary to my own opinion, efforts have been made, in most cases successfully, to induce builders or owners to submit a sketch plan of their proposals. By this means one is far better able to discover and indicate the flaws in a suggested scheme. In addition to this, the sketch plan provides a check that the work has been carried out in accordance with the agreed plan. It also provides a permanent record for the Department should future trouble arise.

Whilst a number of drainage systems have been laid as the

result of granting building licences, the following works were achieved as the result of serving notices:-

Sanitary conveniences provided - 1; rebuilt - 9;
roofs repaired - 2; floors repaired - 1; pails
provided - 2; drainage systems relaid - 8;
drains cleared - 1; yards paved and drained - 2.

CESSPOOLS AND SEWAGE WORKS CESSPOOL EMPTYING

A duty which has long been considered to be in another Department's "sphere" (namely the supervision of sewage disposal works) was transferred to the Surveyor during 1949. As there are only two sewage disposal works in the area this was agreed to, not because their supervision was an undue burden of responsibility, but is a natural consequence of the fact that the Surveyor will be the official responsible for seeing to the maintenance of those works which will, we all sincerely hope, be installed in the area in the not too distant future.

Cesspool emptying has been confined, as far as possible, to the first three working days of the week; although this rule has occasionally to be broken in the event of an emergency. As the vehicle is also used for nightsoil collection on five nights a week throughout the year the reason for this decision is obvious. Even so, the vehicle cannot be expected to have as long a "life" as a single-purpose vehicle would have, and with the increasing number of new Council housing sites which are being provided with cesspools for the reception of sewage the time is approaching when two single-purpose vehicles (one as a nightsoil collection vehicle only and the other for the emptying of public and private cesspools) will prove a more economical proposition. The vehicle was also used during the year for the rather unusual tasks of assisting in the abatement of the tip fire at Bosmere, emptying a pond and a soft water well, and conveying water to a building site. An attempt was also made to use it for the purpose of emptying road-gullies at Debenham. This work was undertaken on behalf of the County Council as highway authority. Whilst the gullies were completely cleansed, the subsequent effect on the vehicle and the task involved in removing the contents from the tank was such that a repetition of the operation cannot be recommended.

We have been fortunate in our arrangement with the Ipswich Corporation to receive the contents of cesspools and nightsoil pails into their sewerage system at the nominal charge of 3d per load of 1100 gallons. Whilst one would have preferred to see this material being used, as it well can be, for composting and

re-use on the land, we have not hitherto been exceptionally successful in persuading the farming community to this end.

294 cesspools (including 54 at private premises) were emptied during the year. Of the total number of loads removed (523), 259 were discharged at Ipswich, by far the greater portion of the balance being deposited at Bosmere pit.

STRUCTURAL DEFECTS

60 Informal and 5 Abatement Notices were served in connection with structural defects. In addition to this, verbal notification to owners living in close proximity to the premises concerned, written "reminders" and personal contact after the service of written notices have all proved very effective in securing compliance with statutory requirements.

Whilst 18 Informal Notices were outstanding at the end of 1948, the position at 31st December 1949 was that 24 Informal Notices had not been carried out.

The following works were completed as the result of the notices served:-

19 roofs repaired; 4 ridge tiles renewed; 1 roof light repaired; 2 barge boards renewed; 5 chimney stacks repointed; 4 cement fillets to chimney stacks renewed; 2 chimneys reconstructed; 4 eaves gutters and downspouts renewed; 13 external walls replastered; 3 external walls repointed; 4 windows enlarged; 4 window cills repaired; 8 window frames repaired; 3 entrance doors repaired; 1 doorstep renewed; 4 weatherboards fixed to doors; 48 internal walls replastered; 22 walls made damp-proof; 13 firegrates repaired; 1 chimney breast reconstructed; 36 ceilings replastered; 10 floors repaired; 4 floors concreted; 2 staircase treads repaired; 1 handrail renewed; 1 staircase reconstructed.

OVERCROWDING

All reported cases of overcrowding are investigated and recorded if found to be authentic. In many instances notifications of "overcrowded conditions" are found not to be so according to the standard laid down in the Housing Act. It is extremely difficult to convince those whose living conditions are inconvenient (to say the least) that this is the case.

The adoption of a "bedroom standard" for assessing overcrowding (as advocated by the Sanitary Inspectors Association even before the war) would not affect, but would rather emphasise, the position of those already overcrowded. It also presents a truer picture of the living and sleeping conditions in an area, and gives a better indication of the particular position in which those persons, who cannot now be registered as "overcrowded", find themselves.

In only one instance was action found necessary in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 17/49 which outlines a form of procedure for protecting the tenancies of overcrowded houses. This circular extends to "illegally overcrowded" houses the power already given to local authorities to issue a temporary licence for overcrowding where such condition occurs in course of time owing to increases in the number or age of the children. The period of licence is not to exceed twelve months, and although a landlord is prevented from taking action, by reason of overcrowding, for the eviction of a tenant the latter is still expected to make every effort (including application for a Council house) in order to relieve or abate the state of overcrowding at the premises he occupies.

TENTS, VANS, ETC

Under recent planning legislation the Planning Committee of the County Council has authority to restrict the permissive period of camping site licences, the form of approval being designated "a planning consent". This has materially assisted in resolving the problem - the doubtful legality of which has been expressed from time to time during recent years - as to whether a site licence granted by a Local Authority under the Public Health Act 1936, could be revoked at the end of a specified period.

As a result no site licences are now issued by the Gipping R.D.C., a separate licence being granted for a six-monthly period in respect of each caravan. As, however, the majority of sites contain, and are only large enough for, one caravan this decision has not created any administrative difficulty.

A total of 21 caravans occupying 15 sites were licensed during the year.

PIG AND POULTRY KEEPING

Very little supervision is required in connection with either of these items. To say this is not to imply that no

criticism whatever can be made of the pig and poultry keeping methods in the area, but it can be freely admitted that in very few instances can it be claimed that action is required to abate the creation of a nuisance.

Consent is required to the siting and construction of sheds and sties at Council houses, and this enables a higher standard to be asked for (one cannot say enforced). The requirements are, however, complied with and, once the relative Defence Regulation has been cancelled, this will enable the Council to introduce byelaws making their standard a general one for the area.

FILTHY AND VERMINOUS PREMISES

Although only a comparatively small number of houses in the area can be placed in this category their existence is the source of many "administrative headaches". To deal with the occupiers of these properties, and attempt to produce some improvement in the conditions under which they appear, all too often, content to exist requires "the patience of Job". Especially is this the case with the majority of old-age pensioners who, although living alone, yet cannot be deemed physically incapable of fending for themselves to such an extent as to render them subject to the provisions of Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948.

In only two instances were properties found to be so verminous as to be beyond the capabilities of the occupier, and to require the services of the Council's Rodent Operative who undertakes this work in addition to his normal duties.

RODENT DESTRUCTION

(a) COUNTY COUNCIL CAMPAIGN

The result of the campaign from October 1st 1948 to 30th September 1949 was that 9,590 rats were destroyed and the sum of £84.13.4d was expended in the reimbursement of the collectors.

It was decided by the County Council that the campaign commencing on October 1st 1949 would be limited to six months and would constitute the final campaign organised by the County Land Agent with the support and assistance of the Sanitary Inspectors of the Rural District Councils. Although no other decision could have been made due to the operative date (31st March 1950) and effect of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, but the cessation of these campaigns is to be regretted in view of the effective action which they achieved in helping to keep down the rat population of the area.

(b) MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES CAMPAIGN

The "free service" scheme for the treatment of private dwellinghouses which was introduced in 1948 was continued during 1949. Business premises are treated for infestation at the extremely reasonable figure of 3/6d per hour. This charge is a question which should provide scope for discussion at a Workable Area Committee in order that a uniform basis might be provided in all the areas concerned. Even so, the amount of work to be carried out does not appear to justify making the appointment of Rodent Operative a full-time one, and the present arrangement whereby he shares his working week between the Stowmarket Urban District and our own area is to the satisfaction of both authorities. Whether this system can continue after March 31st 1950 is something which cannot be stated until fuller details are known regarding the extent of reorganisation required to administer the new Act.

The Council's refuse tips at Bosmere, Lion Barn and Willisham and the Haughley sewerage system received treatment for rat infestation, in addition to which 22 business premises and 199 private dwellings were dealt with. Surveys were also carried out in most Parishes. In no case was there any major infestation. The total known "kill" was 1,063 rats and 49 mice.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The decision of the Ministry of Food to permit certain private slaughterhouses to be re-opened for the slaughter of pigs only would have been more readily welcomed had the services of the Sanitary Department been sought in a joint prior inspection of the permitted premises.

Whilst recognising that the majority of pigs slaughtered at private premises are intended for the consumption of "self-suppliers" and their families, and are, therefore, not subject to inspection, some assurance should at least have been required by the Ministry that both the premises and the methods employed would be to the satisfaction of the Local Authority. To legalise the position of the occupiers of these premises on those occasions when a portion of the carcase is sold to the Ministry of Food and is, therefore, regarded as being subject to inspection, the Council has licensed all the 11 slaughterhouses concerned.

1 Slaughtermen's Licence was issued for a period of three years, 6 were renewed for a further period of a year and 19 others, issued in previous years, remained valid for the whole twelve months.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The following articles of food were prevented from being used for human consumption:-

253 lbs of beef; 35 lbs of bacon; 8-6 lb tins of corned beef; 2-12 oz tins of minced beef loaf; 1-12oz tin of ham loaf; 31 lbs of bovine offal; $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of suet; 28 lbs of kippers; 14 lbs of wet fish; 24-14 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz tins of mussels; 5-8oz tins of crayfish; 2-8oz tins of salmon; 1-3 $\frac{1}{4}$ oz tin of sild; 3-1 lb tins of baked beans; 2-8oz tins of baked beans; 1-4oz tin of baked beans; 1-1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb tin of peas; 1-1 lb tin of peas; 1-12oz tin of peas; 1-1lb 14oz tin of beef and vegetables; 35-16oz tins of evaporated milk; 2-14 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz tins of evaporated milk; 4-2 pint tins of evaporated milk; 6-1 $\frac{3}{4}$ pint tins of sweetened condensed milk; 27 lbs of butter; 100 lbs of cheese; 1-2lb tin of marmalade; 1-2lb tin of peach jam; 6-1lb 14oz tins of grapes; 1-1lb 13oz tin of pears; 1-14oz tin of plums and 56 lbs of icing sugar.

It is to be hoped that the co-operation existing between the Department and the food traders in the area in connection with the notification of unsound food and the maintenance of hygienic standards will continue to operate. If this can be achieved the administration of the byelaws which, it is anticipated, will be introduced in 1950, should be very much easier than would otherwise be the case.

9 premises were registered for the retail sale of ice-cream, and 1 for the preparation and sale of fried fish and chips.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES MILK SUPPLIES

The whole aspect of the supervision of milk supplies was altered as from October 1st 1949 when the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act 1944, and the various Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949, made in accordance with the Act and relating both to ordinary and designated milks, came into force. The effect of this Act and its Regulations may be summarised very briefly as follows:-

- (i) The registration of all dairy farms and dairy farmers becomes the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, whilst the registration of all other milk premises remains with Local Authorities.
- (ii) "Tuberculin Tested" and "Accredited" Licences will be

issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Licences for the pasteurisation and sterilisation of milk and its sale in bulk being issued by Food and Drugs Authorities. Local Authorities will issue all licences appertaining to the retail sale of designated milk.

These changes, which had been anticipated for some years by Local Authorities and their officials, had not been accepted without a great deal of misgiving. Over a number of years efforts had been made, with no small measure of success despite various difficulties, to raise the general standard of milk production. Powers which would have enabled us, in the interests of the community, to have achieved even better results were denied to us. It is, therefore, not very encouraging to find these powers being granted to the new organisations which cannot without the employment of an army of officials ever hope to deal with the day-to-day problems which have been previously solved more or less satisfactorily by the "man on the spot".

Prior to October 1st, 10 new registrations of persons as cowkeepers and of the premises used by them were recorded, and 3 Supplementary Licences for the retail sale of pasteurised milk were issued during the year. A comparatively rare occurrence in this area was the notification of the presence of a small quantity of blood in milk consigned from a farm at Whitton to the Ipswich Co-operative Society's pasteurisation establishment. As this condition may be due to a number of causes including mastitis or the too-early milking of a cow after calving, an immediate investigation was made. It was found that one of the cows in the herd had a torn udder resulting from contact with a barbed wire fence, the wound being, at that date, an open one. The occupier of the farm was instructed that no further milk was to be used for human consumption until the udder had healed.

A total of 16 cowsheds and dairies were constructed or reconstructed in the nine months ending 30th September.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Details regarding the nature and number of the various infectious diseases which occurred during 1949 are, naturally, given prominence in the Medical Officer of Health's Report. In this Report reference is made to them solely because the investigations carried out are an additional duty undertaken by your Sanitary Inspectors in an endeavour to provide the Medical Officer of Health with that co-operation and assistance which is so necessary in these matters. Fortunately for us and, more especially for the general public, the incidence of the more serious infectious diseases in this area is exceptionally low.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

The general standard of factories and workplaces in the area is good, and the total number of visits made (47) in relation to the number of registered premises (88) reflects the degree of supervision required. This is chiefly due to the fact that in the majority of premises both employers and employees are themselves vigilant in seeing that the requirements of the Factory Act and appropriate Regulations are maintained, without the necessity for official action.

In only 3 instances was service of a notice necessary and in all cases (relating to the cleansing and repair of sanitary conveniences) the work was satisfactorily carried out.

The number of registered outworkers (4) is extremely low considering the proximity of this area to Ipswich.

REFUSE AND NIGHTSOIL REMOVAL

Although the refuse removal service continues to expand due to the additional Council and private houses erected since the service was commenced, and the extensions made to isolated properties not previously visited, the work has been more than satisfactorily carried out by one vehicle (manned by three employees), with the additional assistance of an outworn emergency vehicle (also carrying a team of three) on two days per week. The new refuse vehicle which had been ordered to replace the emergency vehicle was not delivered during the year. Of the 49 Parishes in the area 4 receive a weekly collection, with a fortnightly collection in the other 45. Arrangements were also introduced to prevent a four-weeks lapse between collections in those Parishes receiving a fortnightly collection where the normal day for collection would coincide with a Bank Holiday.

The vehicle formerly used for nightsoil collection was converted from a tanker to an open lorry by the simple expedient of cutting through and removing the top plate. It is now continuing to provide valuable service by conveying covering material for our refuse tips at Lion Barn and Willisham.

The doubts which have, from time to time, been expressed regarding the suitability of Bosmere pit as a refuse disposal site were finally settled by the outbreak of fire through spontaneous combustion on January 19th. An attempt was made by using the cesspool emptier to "drown" the fire, the steam created, however, provided an even worse state of affairs and the combination of smoke and steam aggravated by a low-lying mist on the morning of January 27th was, to a certain extent,

responsible for an accident involving a private car and a milk lorry. Fortunately no serious injury was suffered by any of the persons concerned.

For about six weeks after this incident such men as could be spared from the Cleansing Service and, with the Surveyors ready consent, the majority of the workmen under his supervision, were actively engaged in raking down the tip or in dowsing the burning refuse with river water. It is estimated that more than a quarter of a million gallons of water were discharged into the pit between January 19th and March 3rd. The strenuous efforts made by the employees attached to the Surveyors Department who continued at the unpleasant task of raking down this tip even after they had, quite naturally, become "browned off" with the job or had, in some cases, been affected by the noxious fumes, is worthy of record.

Resulting from our experience at this disposal point a man was engaged for full-time work as tip attendant for the purpose of levelling and covering the tip at Lion Barn. This site, due to the neglect of years on the part of the contractor at one time employed on refuse collection at Needham Market, was in a deplorable condition. Due to the assistance given by other employees in the Cleansing Service this tip was dealt with in less time than the 6-8 months anticipated. The services of this man are, therefore, now divided between tip covering, driving the emergency vehicle on two days each week and assisting in cesspool emptying at other times.

A "credit item" for 1949 was the erection at Lion Barn of a suitable depot consisting of garage with room for 4 vehicles, mess-room, office, oil and spares stores. The old barn, whilst still requiring essential repairs, has been converted into a serviceable building for the reception and baling of salvage. We were, fortunately, blessed with a mild winter in 1949-50, but the one item still lacking at the depot - heating arrangements for the vehicles - will require consideration during 1950.

Although a Public Inquiry into the proposed sewage disposal schemes for Bramford, Debenham, Claydon and Great Blakenham was held in February no active progress in the installation of the schemes was made in 1949, so that nightsoil collection in these Parishes, as well as at the other 3 receiving this service, continues. It should, of course, be appreciated that even when the proposed sewage schemes are actually in existence in these Parishes, the unsewered portions will still require the collection of nightsoil.

RIVERS POLLUTION DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES

That hardy annual - the pollution of the Gipping - again reared its ugly head in June, and so many visits were made in that month for observation purposes (some even after nightfall) that I wondered whether a more thorough investigation could not have been made by camping out along its banks. Many theories have been put forward as the reason for the pollution manifesting itself to a greater extent in mid-summer than at any other time although the actual discharge of the polluting effluents takes place throughout the whole year. These theories, however, provide small consolation to those who, living in close proximity to the river, have to tolerate the abominable stench. The main problem and its solution lies in another area, and credit is due to that Authority, however belated we may consider their action to be, that every effort is now being made to remedy the position so far as their area is concerned. Although the pollution entering the river from this area is, in comparison, a minor problem, it cannot be denied that it does exist. It therefore behoves the Council, if we are to achieve what we have for many years desired to see and have on occasion thought impossible - a Gipping restored to its former pristine clarity - to forge ahead with its sewage disposal schemes for the Parishes lying along the river.

The effluent from a tannery in this area also caused considerable trouble during the early portion of the year and polluted the whole watercourse as far as its point of entry to the main river at Stowmarket. Although immediate action was taken by your officials, the County Sanitary Officer and the firm concerned, to effect an improvement, the outcry raised in a certain quarter gave one seriously to wonder what the reaction would have been had the polluted Gipping suddenly decided to reverse the direction of its flow.

The work of cleaning out the watercourse at The Wash, Debenham, was completed early in January and resulted in a considerable improvement at that spot. A similar improvement was also effected in the watercourse between Willow Walk and Valley House, Needham Market. In the first instance the work was carried out by employees of the East Suffolk Rivers Catchment Board, and in the second by employees of the Surveyors Department and of British Railways.

Although a large number of visits were made in connection with the pollution of ditches and streams, the complaints received, apart from those already referred to, were in no case very serious with the exception of Cuckold Ditch, Debenham. It is stagnation, rather than the polluting nature of the effluent discharged, which appears to be the chief source of complaint and, whenever necessary, palliative measures are applied by arranging for the

stagnant portion to be cleansed or flushed out. However much one deplors that this method of sullage disposal has been accepted for many generations, the stark fact is that the properties involved will not, in the foreseeable future, be connected to a village sewerage scheme being situated too far away from the main community, and are either insufficient in number, of too low a standard of construction or so badly sited as not to justify or permit of the installation of an approved system of disposal.

SALVAGE

Unlike numerous other Authorities (both large and small), Gipping, due it is now claimed to foresight in making a contract agreement in 1947 with Messrs. Thames Board Mills, did not find itself unable to dispose of paper salvage, and even the Government's decision to remove the Direction relating to salvage collection, originally imposed in 1940, has not materially affected the position. There is still, however, too widespread an apathy on the part of the general public in relation to this valuable revenue-producing material and our financial return was further affected by the decision of the mill-owners to reduce the amounts payable per ton by sums varying from £1.7.6d to £5.5.0.

Details of the quantity of salvage collected in 1949 and the amount received from its sale are as follows:-

<u>Type</u>	<u>Weight</u>				<u>Value</u>		
	T	C	Qrs	lbs	£.	s.	d.
Wastepaper	59	9	1	7	317.	14.	7.
Newspapers	2	16	3	0	37.	11.	11.
Books and Magazines	5	13	2	7	53.	9.	4.
Cardboard		9	2	0	3.	1.	9.
Rags, Woollens, etc	1	13	2	3	25.	10.	9.
Iron	3	5	0	7	6.	11.	6.
Aluminium				20		5.	0.
String		1	2	27		5.	3.
Cartage	-	-	-	-	34.	4.	6.
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>£478.</u>	<u>14.</u>	<u>7.</u>

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